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LB 1003

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I look at this issue with quite a bit of interest, and I look at...and try to draw a parallel, I guess, of what's taking place with natural environments and proposed and otherwise. And I hate to go back to the prairie dog issue once again, so I apologize, but I believe that the prairie dog issue was conceived by some folks unfamiliar with the land, unfamiliar with the actual state of affairs. And if the population centers in Nebraska, that being Lincoln and Omaha, although it's kind of slighting Bellevue, by the way, if they were subject to more regulations, ala Endangered Species Act, I would look at this a little more seriously. But it's the landowners and the crop producers of rural Nebraska that are having to oftentimes a totally perhaps sell-out because of the Endangered Species Act effects on farming and typical production in Nebraska. And it's...the Endangered Species Act, I think, is the worst unfunded mandate from the feds that we could ever experience, if you look at the cost of the water management system, and I guess I think of a tour that I took one time around Lake McConaughy where there was an artificial habitat set up to protect one of the endangered species, piping plover, least tern, pallid sturgeon, among others. But it was set up on a part of the beach at Lake McConaughy that would effectively be removed if we reached the ultimate objective of increasing water flows through the Platte River Basin. So we're spending money to increase the population...or increase habitat that would be effectively destroyed if we accomplish our objective. I don't quite understand that and I think that this amendment might further complicate that issue, and I would urge a red light on this amendment. And if there is...a point of order, if this measure was amended out of committee, would it not need 30 votes to be attached to this bill?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Are you asking for that point of order now, Senator Smith?

SENATOR SMITH: Please.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith, there was never a separate bill, so your answer is no.